

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS**

**TREATMENT GUIDELINES
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1993**

**GUIDELINE NUMBER 19 - FUSION ANKLE-TARSAL-METATARSAL TO TREAT
NON-UNION OR MALUNION OF A FRACTURE OR TRAUMATIC ARTHRITIS SECONDARY
TO ON THE JOB INJURY TO THE AFFECTED JOINT**

I. Conservative Care :

A. Immobilization which may include:

- 1. Casting, bracing, shoe modification or other orthotics; *or***
- 2. Anti-inflammatory medications**

AND

II. Clinical Findings:

A. Subjective

- 1. Pain including that which is aggravated by activity and weight-bearing; *and***
- 2. Relieved by Xylocaine injection**

AND

B. Objective

- 1. Malalignment; *and***
- 2. Decreased range of motion**

AND

C. Imaging - Positive x-ray confirming presence of:

- 1. Loss of articular cartilage (arthritis); *or***
- 2. Bone deformity (hypertrophic spurring, sclerosis); *or***
- 3. Non or mal-union of a fracture**

III. Special Instructions :

- A. *Supportive imaging could include: Bone Scan (for arthritis only) to confirm localization, or MRI, or Tomography.***